(e) if so, whether the committee had submitted any report thereon; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The number of case relating to Central Excise, Custom and Income Tax pending in Hig Courts (H.Os.) and the Supreme Courts (S.C.) and the number cases in which stay orders have bee granted by the said courts are a under:—

		Total No. of pending cases		No. of cases in which stay orders have been grante	
		SC	H.Cs.	SC	H. Cs.
(i)	Central Excise (as on 31-10-94)	2875	4525	368	463
(ii)	Customs	1627 (as on 31-12-1994)	7940	111 (as on 31-12-1993)	317
(iii)	Income Tax (as on 30-9-94)	6328	48954	17	287 (Prov.)

(c) All possible efforts are made in cunsultation with the Ministry of Law to get the stay orders vacated. Information regarding the period of pendency is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Reducion in Customs Duty

57. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items on which customs duty was cut on the import under open general licence in the last two years;

(b) the reasons for giving such a concession and what benefits that concession gave to the common man at large;

(c) whether there is again a proposal to reduce the customs duty on edible oils; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor an the decision taken by Governmen thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHR M. V. CHADRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The details of changes made i the customs duty rates in 1993-9 and 1994-95 budgets are explained i the "Memorandum explaining th position in the Finance Bill 1993 an 1994" laid on the Table of the Hous at the time of presentation of th Budgets for 1993-94 and 1994-95.

(b) The reduction of customs dut is to achieve objectives like availab lity of capital goods and raw mate rials to industry at reasonable price so as to make them globally competi tive, giving boost to investment, etc Such reduction is in larger publi interest.

(c) and (d) In view of the ensuin budget, it is not possible to indicat the views of the Government at thi stage.